

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
31 December 2003 (31.12.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/002028 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G10L 21/02**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2003/002299

(22) International Filing Date: 27 May 2003 (27.05.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
02077421.2 19 June 2002 (19.06.2002) EP

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
12 February 2004

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **AUDIO SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD**

(57) Abstract: An audio signal processing apparatus (1) comprises an audio input (3) for an entered audio signal, an audio output (5) for outputting an outgoing audio signal, and a processor (9) for performing a transformation (2) to improve the intelligibility of speech present in the entered audio signal. The transformation (2) transforms the entered audio signal into the outgoing audio signal, by modeling at least one aspect of the Lombard effect, based upon a noise level value (7). The Lombard effect is a specific way in which people change their speech, when speaking in noisy environments. The audio signal processing apparatus can be applied in a television receiver and a radio program receiver.

WO 2004/002028 A3